

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #1

Investing in Some Romanian Fashions

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#1

DIALOGUE - ROMANIAN

MAIN

1. Andreea : Bună ziua, aş dori să văd nişte fuste.
2. Vânzătoare : Desigur, doriţi şi să probaţi?
3. Masanobu : Eu?! Nu, mulţumesc. Îi cumpăr prietenei mele. Aveţi ceva din piele?
4. Vânzătoare : Da, sunt la capătul coridorului.
5. Masanobu : Vă mulţumesc mult.
6. Vânzătoare : Dacă aveţi vreo întrebare, nu ezitaţi să mă întrebaţi.
7. Masanobu : Ah, doresc un coş de cumpărături.
8. Vânzătoare : Luaţi-l pe acesta.

ENGLISH

1. Andreea : Hello, I'd like to see some skirts.
2. Salesperson : Sure, do you want to try them on?
3. Masanobu : Me?! No, thank you. I'm buying them for my girlfriend. Do you have any made out of leather?
4. Salesperson : Yes, they're at the end of the aisle.
5. Masanobu : Thank you very much.
6. Salesperson : If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask.
7. Masanobu : Oh, I want a shopping basket.
8. Salesperson : Take this one.

VOCABULARY

Romanian	English	Class
zi	day	noun
capăt	end	noun
ezita	hesitate	verb
a proba	try on	verb
fustă	skirt	noun
a cumpăra	buy	verb
întrebare	question	noun
piele	leather	noun
a dori	want	verb
coridor	aisle	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Astăzi lucrez toată ziua. "Today I'm working the whole day."	A ajuns la capătul răbdării. "He's reached the end of his tether."
Nu este nevoie să eziți. "There is no need to hesitate."	Bărbatul probează costumul. The man tries on the suit.
Bărbatul a probat un costum. The man tried on the suit.	Când cumperi haine noi trebuie să le probezi întâi. When you buy new clothes it is a good idea to try them on first.
probează try it on	probează un costum try on a suit
Ea a probat toate hainele surorii ei. "She tried on all her sister's clothes."	fustă roz închis dark pink skirt
Ea poartă o fustă galbenă. She is wearing a yellow skirt.	Am cumpărat o fustă nouă. I bought a new skirt.
Această fustă este albastră. "This skirt is blue."	Cuplul cumpără haine. The couple buys clothes.
Femeia cumpără alimente cu cartea de credit. The woman is buying groceries with a credit card.	Cuplul a cumpărat haine. The couple bought clothes.

cumpără mâncare buy food	Femeia cumpără haine cu cartea de credit. The woman is buying clothing with a credit card.
cumpără haine buy clothes	Vom cumpăra alcool și parfum la duty-free în aeroport. We'll buy duty-free alcohol and perfume at the duty free shops in the airport.
cumpără cu cartea de credit buy with a credit card	El vrea să cumpere o mașină rapidă. "He wants to buy a fast car."
Răspunde încă o dată la întrebare, te rog. Answer that question once again, please.	răspunde la întrebare answer a question
În această după-amiază va avea loc o sesiune de întrebări. This afternoon there will be a question session.	Ai vreo întrebare? "Do you have any questions?"
Mașina aceea are scaune din piele. "That car has leather seats."	Funcționarii doresc gogoșa. The office workers want the doughnut.
Ei doresc să cumpere o casă nouă și o mașină nouă. They want to buy a new house and a new car.	Funcționarii au dorit gogoșa. The office workers wanted the doughnut.
Vreau haine noi. I want new clothes.	vreau prajitură want cake
Funcționarul a dorit gogoșa. The office worker wanted the doughnut.	Funcționarul dorește gogoșa. The office worker wants the doughnut.
Doresc. "I want."	Ce coridor frumos! "What a beautiful aisle!"

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

la capătul **"at the end of"**

la is a preposition and it means "at," while **capătul** is *capăt*, which can mean "head" or "end," with the definite article *-ul* to mean "the end."

This phrase is used when you want to indicate the location of a building, object, person etc.. As this is just a compound adverbial expression used to indicate concrete location of objects, buildings, people etc., there is no distinction between formal and informal usage. It's ok to use it in both informal and formal situations.

For example:

1. *Este o brutărie la capătul acestei străzi.*
"There is a bakery at the end of this street."

vreo întrebare
"any questions"

Vreo is an indefinite pronoun and means "any" and **întrebare** means "question." So this phrase means just as it literally translates - "Any questions?" This phrase is used when you want to ask whether someone wants to know further information. It can be used in both formal and informal situations.

For example:

1. *Ai vreo întrebare?*
"Do you have any questions?"

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Cases (Part 1)

Bună ziua, aş dori să văd nişte fuste.
"Hello, I'd like to see some skirts."

Eu?! Nu, mulţumesc. Îi cumpăr prietenei mele. Aveţi ceva din piele?
"Me?! No, thank you. I'm buying for my girlfriend. Do you have something made out of leather?"

Da, sunt la capătul coridorului.
"Yes, they are at the end of the aisle."

In this lesson, we will learn how to:

1. use cases in Romanian
 2. recognize various prepositions and the cases they determine
 3. conjugate nouns and their case declension
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1. How to use cases in Romanian

The case is the form taken by the noun to express its syntactic function in a statement.

The Romanian case represents a grammatical category associated to a noun, pronoun, adjective, numeral or article. It is used to express the syntactic function in a sentence of these elements or their relation to a process expressed by a verb.

In Romanian, there are five grammatical cases: nominative, accusative, genitive, dative, and vocative. You can find below the questions that the nouns used in each case respond to.

Case	Responds to
<i>Cazul nominativ</i> "Nominative Case"	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● <i>Cine? Ce?</i> "Who? What?"● <i>Cine este? Ce este?</i> "Who is? What is?"● <i>Care?</i> "Which?"
<i>Cazul acuzativ</i> "Accusative Case"	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● <i>Ce? Pe cine?</i> "What? Who?"● <i>Despre cine/ce?</i> "About who/what?"● <i>De cine?</i> "By whom?"● <i>Pentru cine/ce?</i> "For whom/what?"● <i>La cine/ce?</i> "To whom/what?"● <i>De către cine?</i> "By whom?"● <i>Unde? De unde?</i> "Where? Where from?"● <i>Cum? Câț de?</i> "How?"● <i>Când? De când?</i> "When? From when?"● <i>Din ce cauză?</i> "Wherefore?"● <i>Cu ce scop?</i> "For what purpose?"● <i>Care? Ce fel de?</i> "Which? What kind of?"
<i>Cazul genitiv</i> "Genitive Case"	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● <i>A, al, ai, ale cui?</i> "Whose?"● <i>Asupra cui?</i> "On whom?"● <i>Contra cui?</i> "Against whom?"● <i>Unde?</i> "Where?"● <i>Când?</i> "When?"● <i>Din cauza cui?</i> "Because of who?"● <i>În ce scop?</i> "For what purpose?"
<i>Cazul dativ</i> "Dative Case"	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● <i>Cui?</i> "Whose? Whom?"
<i>Cazul vocativ</i> "Vocative Case"	Not applicable

In Romanian, the Nominative case is used to express the subject of action in a sentence. Therefore, the noun in nominative can respond to one of the questions *Cine?* "Who?" or *Ce?* "What?" (...is doing that action). Moreover, the questions *Cine este?* "Who is?" or *Ce este?* "What is?" can be used. In more particular cases, that of an appositional attribute in nominative, the question *Care?* "Which?" applies.

In later lessons we'll introduce the rest of the cases in more detail. Please stay tuned for three more cases that will be discussed in detail (the accusative in lesson 6 and the genitive and dative in lesson 16).

Let's see some sample sentences for the nominative case:

1. *Andreea pune o întrebare.*
"Andreea asks a question."
2. Question: *Cine?* "Who?"
Answer: *Andreea* "Andreea;" (syntactic function = subject)
3. *Aceasta este o fustă.*
"This is a skirt."
4. Question: *Ce este?* "What is that?"
Answer: *o fustă* "a skirt;" (syntactic function = predicative)
5. *Prietenul meu, Masanobu, învață română.*
"My boyfriend, Masanobu, learns Romanian."
6. Question: *Care?* "Which?"
Answer: *Masanobu* "Masanobu;" (syntactic function = appositional attribute)

2. How to recognize various prepositions and the cases they determine

Preposition in Romanian is the non-flexible part of the speech that links an attribute or an object (direct or indirect) to the word it determines.

By form, prepositions can be:

<i>simple</i> "basic"	<i>compuse</i> "compound"
<i>pe</i> "on"	<i>de la</i> "from"
<i>sub</i> "under"	<i>pe lângă</i> "by"
<i>lângă</i> "next to"	<i>de lângă</i> "next to"
<i>către</i> "to"	<i>fără de</i> "without"
<i>contra</i> "opposite"	<i>până la</i> "until"
<i>cu</i> "with"	<i>de pe</i> "on"
<i>de</i> "by"	<i>de pe la</i> "from"
<i>fără</i> "without"	
<i>în</i> "in"	
<i>între</i> "between"	
<i>la</i> "to"	
<i>până</i> "to"	
<i>pentru</i> "for"	
<i>peste</i> "over"	

Some prepositions come from other parts of the speech.

Examples:

1. **Articulate adverb** with a definite article: *înaintea* "before," *împotriva* "against," *împrejurul* "around," *dedesubtul* "underneath;"

2. **Nouns:** *grație* "thanks to;"

3. **Verbs (past participle):** *datorită, mulțumită* "thanks to."

Prepositions in the Accusative Case

Most basic and compound prepositions are constructed with nouns, pronouns, adjectives, or numerals in the accusative case.

1. *Nu merg acolo fără tine.*

"I'm not going over there **without you.**"

Prepositions in the Genitive Case

The following sentences accompany words in the Genitive case:

- *asupra* "over," *contra* "against:"

1. *Asupra orașului sunt nori negri.*

"**Over the city** are black clouds."

2. *Lupta contra lui Mihai s-a sfârșit.*

"The fight **against Mihai** is over."

- *înaintea, înapoia, dinaintea* (*prepoziții provenite din adverbe prin articulare*), "in front of, behind, before (prepositions from adverbs through articulations):"

1. *E liniștea dinaintea furtunii.*

"This is the **calm before the storm.**"

Prepositions in the Dative Case

These prepositions are required:

- coming from adverb with non-articulate form: *înaintea* "before," *asupra* "over."

1. *Bem un pahar de vin înaintea mesei.*

"We drink a glass of wine **before the meal.**"

- derived from nouns: *grație* "thanks to"

1. *Grație lui am ajuns în România.*

"**Thanks to him** I got to Romania."

- coming from some adverbs: *asemenea* "similar (to)," *conform* "according (to)"

1. *Am răspuns asemenea ei.*

"I've responded **similar to her.**"

- coming from some verbs: *datorită* "thanks to," *mulțumită* "thanks to."

1. *Am obținut rezultatele astea datorită profesorilor.*

"I got these results **thanks to my teachers.**"

3. How to conjugate nouns and their case declension

Declension of nouns indicates the number (singular or plural), case (nominative, accusative, dative, genitive or vocative) and gender (feminine, masculine or neutral).

There are three types of declension according to the termination a noun has in nominative case, singular form, non-articulated.

"Declension Types for Nouns" chart

Nouns of declension I	Nouns of declension II	Nouns of declension III
<p>Proper or common nouns in feminine form ending in a, ă, ea.</p> <p>Examples: <i>Ana, Maria, Andreea, macara</i> ("crane"), <i>sanda</i> ("sandal"), <i>masă</i> ("table"), <i>casă</i> ("house"), <i>stea</i> ("star"), <i>catifea</i> ("velvet")</p> <p>Proper or common nouns in masculine form ended in a or ă.</p> <p>Examples: <i>Zaharia, tată</i> ("father"), <i>popă</i> ("priest")</p> <p>The noun <i>zi</i> or <i>ziuă</i> ("day").</p>	<p>Common nouns in masculine form ending in u (vowel or semivowel) or i (semivowel).</p> <p>Examples: <i>codru</i> ("forest"), <i>erou</i> ("hero"), <i>leu</i> ("lion"), <i>ardei</i> ("paprika"), <i>tei</i> ("linden")</p> <p>Common nouns in neutral form ended in u (vowel or semivowel) or i (vowel or semivowel), o or a consonant.</p> <p>Examples: <i>teatru</i> ("theatre"), <i>cadou</i> ("present / gift"), <i>tablou</i> ("picture / painting"), <i>taxi</i> ("taxi"), <i>butoi</i> ("barrel"), <i>radio</i> ("radio"), <i>zero</i> ("zero"), <i>avion</i> ("airplane"), <i>tren</i> ("train")</p>	<p>Common nouns in masculine, feminine or neutral form ending in e.</p> <p>Examples: <i>femeie</i> ("woman"), <i>frate</i> ("brother"), <i>nume</i> ("name"), <i>pește</i> ("fish")</p> <p>The first five days of the week: <i>luni</i> ("Monday"), <i>marți</i> ("Tuesday"), <i>miercuri</i> ("Wednesday"), <i>joi</i> ("Thursday"), <i>vineri</i> ("Friday")</p>

"Nouns and Case Declension" chart

Cazul "Case"	Masculin "Masculine"	Masculin "Masculine"	Feminin "Feminine"	Feminin "Feminine"	Neutru "Neutral"	Neutru "Neutral"
	<i>Singular</i> "Singular"	<i>Plural</i> "Plural"	<i>Singular</i> "Singular"	<i>Plural</i> "Plural"	<i>Singular</i> "Singular"	<i>Plural</i> "Plural"
<i>Nominativ - Acuzativ</i> "Nominative - Accusative"	<i>leul</i> "the lion"	<i>leii</i> "the lions"	<i>femeia</i> "the woman"	<i>femeile</i> "the women"	<i>avion</i> "airplane"	<i>avioane</i> "airplanes"
<i>Genitiv - Dativ</i> "Genitive - Dative"	<i>leului</i> "lion's"	<i>leilor</i> "lions"	<i>femeii</i> "woman's"	<i>femeilor</i> "women's"	<i>avionului</i> "airplane's"	<i>avioanelor</i> "airplanes' "
<i>Vocativ</i> "Vocative"	<i>leule!</i> "lion!"	<i>Leilor!</i> "lions!"	<i>femeie!</i> "woman!"	<i>femeilor!</i> "women!"	<i>avionule!</i> "airplane!"	<i>avioanelor!</i> "airplanes!"

Let's see some sample sentences (Nominative Case, nouns in different number and gender)

1. *Leii stau în cușcă.*
"The lions stay in the cage."
2. *Femeia locuiește în România.*
"The woman lives in Romania."
3. *Avionul are o aripă avariată.*
"The airplane has a broken wing."

Examples from the Dialogue

1. *Bună ziua, aș dori să văd niște fuste.*
"Hello, I'd like to see some skirts."
2. *Eu?! Nu, mulțumesc. Îi cumpăr prietenei mele. Aveți ceva din piele?*
"Me?! No, thank you. I'm buying for my girlfriend. Do you have something made out of leather?"
3. *Da, sunt la capătul coridorului.*
"Yes, they are at the end of the aisle."

Sample Sentences:

1. *Peisajele României sunt variate.*
"The landscapes of Romania are diverse."
2. *O învăț pe Maria limba italiană.*
"I am teaching Maria Italian."
3. *Îi adaug cafelei zahăr.*
"I add sugar to the coffee."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Fashion in Romania

Fashion in Romania depends a lot on ideas, individuality and authenticity. Fashion, by definition, talks about change and is relevant not only to the clothes we wear. It has to do with illusion, a contribution to our well-being. Style is a reflection of personal choice and today's fashion is a reflection of personal style. Nowadays, men in Romania are increasingly interested in fashion. Lumbersexual is very widespread among young Romanians. Long beard, plaid shirt, boots and an unobtrusive look. Women in Romania are increasingly interested in fashion as well. They are following the trends from abroad. They listen to the principle: life is too short to wear dull clothes. Leaving the communist regime, access to the internet and opportunities to visit other countries helped the Romanians to refine their style, appearance, and exterior image. In the 90s, men discovered that it is absolutely normal to use a moisturizing cream and to be concerned about your own style, thus appeared the metrosexual. Along with hipster and lumbersexual, these are the strongest male trends in the last 30 years. Women often prefer to buy their clothes abroad, in places like Paris, Milan, and London. 30 years ago, women wore only what they could find in the shops. Since the fashion industry was underdeveloped, their clothing choices were simple, without any particular items to stand out. Today, their outfits range from eccentric and vivid to the classic of Coco Chanel.

Useful expression

1. *Haina îl face pe om.*

"Fine feathers make fine birds."